

Economics 4784: Economic Development

Spring 2018

T/Th 9:30-10:45 PM

Room: GUGG 205

Class Website through Desire2Learn (D2L): <https://learn.colorado.edu/>

No Class: Mar 27-29 (Spring Break)

Professor Francisca Antman

Office: Economics 222

Office Hours: T/Th 10:50AM-12:20PM, F 9:15-10:45AM

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Course Description

In this course we will explore empirical, theoretical, and policy issues surrounding economic development. These topics will include theories of economic growth, inequality, poverty, demographic change, migration, as well as characteristics of land, labor, and credit markets in developing countries. Note that the field of development economics is very broad and so an introductory course will naturally vary from instructor to instructor. The approach taken in this course is to touch on many areas of interest to development economists to provide a broad introduction to the field.

Prerequisites: Economics 3070 (Intermediate Microeconomic Theory) or Econ 3080 (Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory), passed with a grade of C- or better.

Optional Textbook: Debraj Ray, *Development Economics*, Princeton University Press, 1998.

Grading

Midterm 1: 25%

Midterm 2: 25%

Final Exam (cumulative): 40%

Homework, In-class Exercises, Attendance & Participation: 10%

Class Policies

While there is no required textbook for this course, a significant portion of lectures are based on the textbook listed above. Thus, if you are having difficulty understanding a concept we have covered in class, you may find it useful to consult the textbook. The text covers far more material than will be discussed in class and I will present material in class that is not in the textbook, so it is in your interest to come to class. I will also assign articles from other sources that I would like you to read before coming to class. These assignments will generally be announced in class beforehand, so again, it is in your interest to come to class.

Throughout the semester, we will do exercises that will help prepare you for exams. These exercises will be posted on the course website along with questions that relate to some of the articles assigned for reading. Please do your best to prepare your own responses to these questions prior to class so that we may proceed to discuss your answers as a group. I may collect your

responses to the discussion questions and exercises at random points throughout the c0 1o.a

early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning,

Economics 4784 Tentative Course Outline Spring 2018

Note: The journals listed below can be accessed online from the University of Colorado library system at <http://libraries.colorado.edu/>

- I. Introduction (Week 1: Jan 16-18)
 - A. Topics
 - 1. How should we measure economic development?
 - 2. What do development economists study?
 - 3. Millennium Development Goals
 - B. Readings
 - 1. Lecture Notes
 - 2. Article(s) from popular press, consult website
 - 3. Ray, ch. 1, 2 (optional)

- II. Theories of Economic Growth (Week 2: Jan 23-25)
 - A. Topics
 - 1. Explaining cross-country income differences
 - 2. Convergence hypotheses
 - B. Readings
 - 1. Lecture Notes
 - 2. Article(s) from popular press, consult website
 - 3. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 7 L P H 11(3): 3-17.
 - 4. Ray, ch. 3 (optional)

- III. Inequality (Week 3: Jan 30-Feb 1)
 - A. Topics
 - 1. Measuring inequality
 - 2. Inverted-U hypothesis
 - 3. Self-perpetuating inequality
 - B. Readings
 - 1. Lecture Notes
 - 2. Article(s) from popular press, consult website
 - 3. Ray, Debraj. 2010. *A Framework for Research in Development Economics* p 1

4. Besley, Timothy and Robin % XU JHV V
Economic Perspectives, 17(3): 3-22.
5. Ray, ch. 8 (optional)

³ + DOY L. *Journal of REDO* 3 R

V. Population & Fertility (Week 5: Feb 13)

A. Topics

1. Demographic transition
- 2.

1. Lecture Notes
2. Article(s) from popular press, consult website
3. Field, Erica. 2007. ³ (QWLWOHG WR :RUN 8UEDQ 3URSHUW\ 5 in Peru. ' *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 122(4): 1561-1602. (Optional.)
4. Ray

3. Cull, Robert, Asli Demirguc- . X Q W D Q G - R Q D W K D Q 0 R U G X F K
0 H H W V W K H O D U N H W *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 23(1): 167-192.
4. Banerjee, Abhijit V. D Q G (V W K H U ' K I O R C *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 24(3): 61